



APPROVED 11-09-04
KING COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2004
EXCHANGE BUILDING, CONFERENCE ROOM 6A

Members Present: Alberto Gallego (awaiting Executive appointment), Melody Cecilia James, Howard Miller, Eleanor Owen, Ron Sterling, Clifford Thurston

Members Absent: Shauna Cheney (excused), Gwendolyn Williams (excused)

Guests Present: Joan Clement (KCASAAB), Allan Panitch (board applicant), Pam Pratt (private citizen), Eugene Wan (board applicant), Silvia Singer (VCCC), [Nancy Dow-Witherbee \(board applicant\)](#)

Staff Present: Geoff Miller, Rhoda Naguit, Jean Robertson

I. WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Board Chair Ron Sterling convened the meeting at 4:35 p.m. and asked everyone to introduce him/herself.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Eleanor Owen: The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation will hold a Town Hall meeting on Thursday, October 14th from 10am to noon at 1700 Cherry Street in Seattle. Eleanor urged board members and Mental Health service providers to attend.

Helen Nilon: NAMI Eastside is holding an Art Exhibit throughout the month of October at Redmond City Hall.

NAMI Eastside October Forum will be held on Tuesday, October 19th from 7:00pm to 9:00pm at Evergreen Hospital located at 12303 NE 130th Lane in Kirkland. Dr. Mark Forrest, the Manager of Overlake Hospitals Outpatient Psychiatric Services, will be the featured speaker.

III. MINUTES

Eleanor Owen made a motion that was seconded to approve the September 14, 2004 minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. CHAIR'S REPORT

A. Letter to Karl Brimner

Board Chair Ron Sterling drafted a letter for Karl Brimner to express board's concern about the WSH general bed census problem and to express opposition to reducing WSH bed availability at this time and to recommend suspending liquidated damage assessments. Ron is still working with Jean Robertson in finalizing this letter.

B. Letter to Providers Regarding Board Presentation

To fulfill a motion approved at the September 14, 2004 meeting regarding board presentation, Board Chair Sterling sent out a letter to board chairs/presidents of agencies requesting to do a presentation at their regular board meeting. The brief board presentation is part of the recruitment, outreach and education efforts of the King County Mental Health Advisory Board.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Legislative Advocacy and Public Affairs Committee

Eleanor Owen reported that at the most recent committee meeting, the members engaged in a discussion about the forthcoming 2004 Legislative Forum. The event will be held on December 9th at St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral on Capitol Hill. It will start with a "social time" at 6:30 p.m. and will end at 8:30 p.m. State Representative Eilene Cody and State Representative Ruth Kagi have been invited to make presentations on the Mental Health Task Force and Treatment on-demand. Geoff Miller confirmed that King County Executive Ron Sims will give the keynote speech. Linda Brown is hopeful of a good turnout of CD providers and their clients at this year's event.

Geoff also thanked those who participated in the Recovery Month, particularly to Jean Robertson and Patrick Vanzo who gave outstanding presentations on recovery from mental health and chemical dependency perspectives. The Recovery Month was publicized in leading local newspapers and ads were aired on several radio stations in King County.

B. Nominations Committee

Helen Nilon, Chair of the Nominations Committee, reported that the committee met prior to the board meeting this afternoon and conducted separate interviews with two board applicants, Eugene Wan and Allan Panitch. The committee has recommended the appointment of both applicants for board membership. Helen

asked each applicant to introduce himself and share his interest in serving on the board.

Allan Panitch expressed that his interest in serving on the board was primarily with respect to the condition of children with whom he has contact through his membership on the board of the Washington State CASA, and as a volunteer Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) in King County Superior/Juvenile Court. Allan has a law degree from Southwestern University Law School in California. His deceased wife, who was a licensed family therapist, exposed him to the community impacts of people with mental health problems. He and his late wife also served as foster parents to several children with mental illness.

Eugene Wan stated that his interest in serving on the board is to help those like himself, live with mental illness but may be less fortunate than him in coping with the disease. He would like to help find a way for people with mental illness who have no healthcare insurance to access services. Eugene is an office volunteer at NAMI Greater Seattle.

Helen also acknowledged the presence of a new board applicant, Nancy Dow-Witherbee. This is her first meeting of the three she needs to attend before action can be taken with regards to her application for board membership.

C. Quality Council

There is no report due to cancellation of the September 28, 2004 Quality Council meeting which conflicted with King County Mental Health, Chemical Abuse and Dependency Services Division's Exemplary Service Awards ceremony on the same date and time.

D. Recovery Initiatives Committee (RIC)

The Recovery Initiatives Committee (RIC) did not meet last month. The next meeting is on Tuesday, October 26th at 12 noon to 2:00 p.m. at the Exchange Building Conference Room 6A. There will be a special presentation by Barry Antos, Senior Vice President of Behavioral Health Services, Human Services Division of Pioneer Industries. He will speak on the values, expectations, and responsibilities of an employer, the responsibilities of employees and social and financial return on investment in industry.

RIC has made changes in language on the Recovery Ordinance and formally accepted the changes at their meeting several months ago. Copy of the proposed changes in language on the Recovery Ordinance will be sent to the board members for review and action at the November 9, 2004 meeting.

E. Goals and Priorities Ad Hoc Committee

The committee has yet to meet again. Ron will try to convene the group as soon as possible.

VI. STAFF REPORT

A. Update on Children's Mental Health Plan

The Children's Mental Health Plan is going through an internal approval process at this point. Hopefully the Plan will be ready for dissemination and discussion at the November 9, 2004 board meeting.

Jean Robertson cautioned the board members not to be intimidated by the size of the document, which is about 50 pages. The Plan contains background information and focuses on Best Practices. This document is the result of several years of grant-funded development of systems of care in King County. Multiple stakeholders have contributed to the Plan. The funding for this plan is from an existing fund.

The Plan is being brought to the Board to make children's services issues more visible.

B. Briefing with LJHS

Amnon Shoenfeld and Jean Robertson briefed the members of the Law, Justice, and Human Services Committee last September 20th regarding mental health and chemical dependency, including issues of concern from both systems. With respect to public mental health services, they brought up the issue of the January 2005 funding shortfall due to changes in Medicaid rules. The County Council members were very receptive to the presentation and asked insightful questions.

Part of the purpose of the presentation was to pave the way for proposing revisions to the Recovery Ordinance. RSN staff is working with County Council staff to bring a revised ordinance to the Council in early 2005.

The board engaged in an in depth discussion on the issue of changes in Medicaid rules.

The current dilemma faced by RSNs is how to continue to provide services to their clients with this impending financial crisis. Initially, Mental Health Division (MHD) was supportive of submitting a supplemental budget to the Governor but this strategy was dropped at a recent meeting. The MHD is not taking any leadership in this issue. The RSNs and the Washington Community Mental Health Council will be pursuing this issue with the governor and legislators.

Under the new waiver, there are three new mandated services which include new supported employment, respite care, and clubhouse. Jean emphasized that there is no new funding for new services. A workgroup will be convened for each service to map out how these services would be provided and prioritized.

Legislative budget decisions would not address the problem in time for the January 2005 deadline when non-Medicaid funding is scheduled to be severely restricted.

King County Regional Support Network is currently drafting a letter addressed to the Governor with cc to the legislators, to be routed through King County Executive Ron Sims, on how to deal with the budget shortfall caused by changes in Medicaid rules.

Board members have expressed interest to receive a heads up from the Division staff whenever mental health issues are being addressed in the County Council meetings.

C. Briefing with Regional Policy Team

On October 5, 2004, Jean gave a briefing at the meeting of the Regional Policy Team held at King County Council Chamber. The meeting was to look at the kind of services provided region-wide and to understand publicly funded services.

Melody Cecilia James brought up the issue of ADA accommodation particularly for adolescent age. She pointed out that certain disabilities are not being addressed nor recognized by some schools, universities and colleges. Ron Sterling would like to have a list of employers who accommodate disabled. Helen Nilon commented that the focus of the board is public mental health system not the education system.

VII. LIAISON REPORTS

Howard Miller, Downtown Emergency Service Center: Phase I of remodeling plan for the Morrison Hotel is finished. There are 65 residents who have moved into the facility. Phases 2 and 3 of the project will be smaller in size compared with Phase 1.

The agency has also received McKinney funding to provide housing for their clients. A site for this program has to be in place by December 18, 2004 to avoid returning the money to the funder. The difficulty of finding a site for this program was due to neighborhood resistance to the project.

DESC is also developing a 45-minute chemical dependency video funded by SAMSHA for distribution.

The agency continues to receive national recognition for their service programs.

Eleanor Owen, Western State Hospital: At the last board meeting she attended, WSH was reported to be 100 over census. This figure includes all hospital wards. A huge green area in the facility was designated as smoking area for clients. The hospital also received high marks on the recent audit from CMS. They provide on-going training for their staff year-round.

Jim Nobles, Chronic Populations Action Council: Jim was unable to attend the meeting last month due to his personal involvement in the primary election. The next CPAC meeting will be held tomorrow, October 13th, 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. at the Exchange Building Conference Room 6A.

Clifford Thurston, Consumer Operated Programs: Clifford attended a Statewide Quarterly QRT and Ombudsman Meeting on September 20th in Tacoma. This event was sponsored by the Washington Institute. He handed out copies of a draft text of consumer-run services bill.

Helen Nilon, Seattle Mental Health: The agency has purchased a facility in Tukwila, where they plan to consolidate all their programs. Their other programs are doing well.

VIII. OTHER ITEM

Jean Robertson gave a heads up about flyers that will be distributed regarding funding for consumer pilot project. The total budget for all projects is \$25,000.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35pm.

Prepared by:

Attested by:

Rhoda A. Naguit
Recording Secretary

Ron Sterling
Board Chair